



**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF FLAXTON**



Annual Reports

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

**SURVEYOR AND CHIEF
SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the year

1948



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Rural District Council of Flaxton.

Chairman :

J. R. ROBINSON, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

J. SHARP, Esq., C.C.

(Ex-officio Members of the Health Committee).

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor Mrs. I. B. SHAW, J.P., C.C. (*Chairman*)

„ W. H. SIMPSON (*Vice-Chairman*)

„ T. J. BERRY

„ H. B. BROOK, J.P.

„ W. BROADLEY

„ Col. L. C. B. DEED, D.S.O., O.B.E.

„ Mrs. C. E. GEILERN

„ J. S. IMISON

„ E. A. KING

„ H. MILNE

„ Mrs. A. L. V. WAUGH

Rural District Council of Flaxton.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time) :

A. W. RIDDOLLS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector (Whole-time) :

L. B. PARKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Certificates held :

Royal Sanitary Institute, as

(a) Sanitary Inspector.

(b) Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

City and Guilds of London Finalist.

Certificates Building Construction, Technical Drawing, etc.
Instructor, A.R.P.S.,

Other Appointments held :

Surveyor.

Inspector under the Petroleum Acts.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors (Whole-time) :

D. NURSE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Certificates held :

Royal Sanitary Institute, as

(a) Sanitary Inspector.

(b) Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

G. A. W. HEPPELL, M.C., A.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.

Certificates held :

Royal Sanitary Institute, as Sanitary Inspector.

Clerical Staff :

J. W. MOOR (*Chief Clerk*)

R. HUNTLEY (*General Clerk*)

J. W. MEDD (*General Clerk*)

Miss J. SHEPHERD (*Shorthand Typist*)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Flaxton Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 1948 having drawn to a close, it is again my privilege and duty to present to you a Report upon the state of health of your Area during the year and generally to review the conditions and circumstances affecting the well-being of your ratepayers.

It has been a particularly satisfactory period insofar as the health of the population has not only been maintained but, if anything, has been above the average.

I have made some more detailed comments under various headings in this Report and it only remains for me in these introductory remarks to make comments of a general nature.

The population continues to increase with its tendency to add to the problem of overcrowding, and whilst the Council have made particularly good progress in the erection of new dwelling-houses it is still evident that a great deal more still needs to be done. As a general feature, the provision of satisfactory housing is amongst the most important factors not only of a healthy community but of a happy and contented one. I feel it must be of some satisfaction to your Council that due to the efforts which have already been made the level of hardship for which it is now possible to allocate housing accommodation is as low as it is. It is not possible at the present time to foresee the time when this problem might be considered to be even reasonably satisfactorily resolved. Whilst it is true that the really hard cases have been cleared the number of new applications continues to exceed the number of applications dealt with. The efforts which have been made must, therefore, be continued with unabated energy for some time longer.

The provision of essential services of water and sewerage to the smaller villages and grouped properties continues to be one of some urgency and I am sure it must be a matter of satisfaction to the population of this district to know of the careful consideration and continued activity of your Council to ensure the provision and maintenance of sound and satisfactory living conditions for the population as a whole.

I am able to say again that my further year of office with your Council has been one which has given me much pleasure and satisfaction and has proved of very great interest, and I would like to express to your Council my thanks and appreciation of the courtesy and help which has been extended to me.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. RIDDOLLS.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Social Conditions.

The district lies in the North Riding of the County of York and is bounded by the Rural Districts of Easingwold on the North, Nidderdale on the West, Pocklington and Malton on the East and North-East, and by the City of York and Rural District of Derwent on the South.

The area forms part of the Plain of York and is extremely flat in consequence, being practically devoid of hills, and this flatness adds appreciably to the difficulties of administration, particularly with regard to water supply and drainage.

The district comprises 24 parishes and is mainly agricultural in character. Round the City of York, and in the principal villages, it has become urbanised.

There is no sign of serious unemployment in the area, the demand for labour apparently exceeding the supply. Scientific instrument making, tanning, brick-making, printing and a miscellany of light industries provide employment for a good proportion of the industrial workers in the district. During the year another of the hangars at Rawcliffe has been converted into factory premises and is being used for the manufacture of paddings for upholstery, local labour being employed.

Statistics.

The vital statistics for the year are given in accordance with the arrangements and requirements of the Ministry of Health. Statistics are given not only for the current year but also for previous years for comparative purposes.

The Birth Rate over the whole country has shown a decline this year to the lowest figure since 1944. History shows that following a period of war the birth rate tends to increase and the increase following the cessation of hostilities was not unexpected. The present fall may not be sustained, but as I said last year, we must expect a decrease on the past few years' figures.

The Death Rate over the country as a whole is very much lower than in previous years. It is not possible to establish when it was so low before, but it is lower than any previous figure recorded in your office, which records go back 25 years. The Death Rate in the district is also low and is the lowest since 1933. Fluctuations in the death rate are not easily accounted for, but during the year 1948 the country as a whole was more free from

the more serious infectious diseases than for some time. The incidence of poliomyelitis and kindred diseases was lower, the number of deaths from diphtheria was appreciably reduced, for which the immunisation arrangements might properly take some little credit, and the other infectious diseases were not of the virulent type but inclined to be milder in form.

The Infant Mortality Rate is again slightly higher than it was last year and represents 12 deaths in a total of 315 babies born alive. It is about the same as the figure for England and Wales, but is rather higher than we are accustomed to in this district. An analysis of these 12 cases shows the causes of death to be prematurity, haemorrhagic condition of organs, malformation of bone and organs, abscess of the brain, heart disease, pneumonia and inability to feed. It will be seen, therefore, that the causes of these deaths were not due to any avoidable cause, and it is reassuring to know that they were in no way due to the troublesome infectious and contagious illnesses which have tended to be prevalent for a number of years.

The Maternal Mortality Rate of 3.08 per thousand total births is accounted for by one death. The death arose from a comparatively rare cause, a form of convulsion arising from an affectation of the kidneys.

There are no other comments that I feel I might usefully make in connection with the vital statistics. The general causes of death are due to causes which we have now come to look upon as normal and in no case is there any instance of unusual circumstances.

The area of the district is 36,254 acres, and the Registrar General's estimate of the resident population at mid-year is 19,900.

The number of dwelling-houses according to the Rate Book as at the 31st December, 1948, is 5,097.

The sum represented by a penny rate at the year ending the 31st March, 1949, was £413 8s. 0d. and the Total Rateable Value £102,143.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total
1946	.. Legitimate ..	195	150	345	
	Illegitimate..	9	10	19	364
1947	.. Legitimate ..	193	175	368	
	Illegitimate..	7	8	15	383
1948	.. Legitimate ..	151	146	297	
	Illegitimate..	9	9	18	315

The **Birth Rate** per thousand of the estimated resident population of the district is 15.83.

Still Births :		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
1946 ..	Legitimate ..	4	3	7	
	Illegitimate..	—	1	1	8
1947 ..	Legitimate ..	6	5	11	
	Illegitimate..	—	1	1	12
1948 ..	Legitimate ..	5	3	8	
	Illegitimate..	1	1	2	10

The figure of **Still Births** per thousand of the estimated resident population of the district is 0.50.

Deaths :					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1946..	..	..	..	..	81	93	174
1947..	..	..	..	..	90	83	173
1948..	..	..	..	..	95	88	183

The **Death Rate** per thousand of the estimated resident population of the district is 8.19.

Maternal Mortality :

1946 ..	..	Puerperal causes ..	..	..	..	1
		Rate per 1,000 births		..	..	2.74
1947 ..	..	Nil.				
1948 ..	..	Maternal causes ..	..	..	..	1
		Rate per 1,000 births		..	..	3.08

Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year) :

		1946	1947	1948
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ..		19.23	31.33	34.92
Legitimate Infants per 1,000				
Live Legitimate Births		16.51	32.60	33.67
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000				
Live Illegitimate Births		52.73	nil.	55.55

Mortality in Special Cases :

		1946	1947	1948
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..	..	20	27	38
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..	..	—	1	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		1	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		1	—	—

Causes of Death :

Causes of Death :				1946		1947		1948				
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers			..	—	—	..	—	—	—		
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever			..	—	—	..	—	—	—		
3.	Scarlet Fever			..	—	—	..	—	—	—		
4.	Whooping Cough			..	1	—	..	—	—	—		
5.	Diphtheria			..	—	—	..	—	—	—		
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			..	4	4	..	—	4	..	2	3
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis			..	—	1	..	—	2	..	3	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases			..	—	—	..	1	—	..	1	—
9.	Influenza			..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	1
10.	Measles			..	—	—	..	—	1	..	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis			..	—	—	..	—	1	..	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis			..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M)and uterus (F)			..	1	2	..	1	2	..	1	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum			..	2	4	..	1	1	..	5	5
15.	Cancer of Breast			..	—	4	..	—	2	..	—	6
16.	Cancer of all other sites			..	6	5	..	10	10	..	14	5
17.	Diabetes			..	1	1	..	—	1	..	—	—
18.	Intercranial Vascular Lesions			..	7	17	..	12	11	..	6	9
19.	Heart Diseases			..	25	25	..	29	23	..	31	27
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System			..	4	3	..	4	2	..	3	8
21.	Bronchitis			..	4	5	..	9	—	..	6	2
22.	Pneumonia			..	1	3	..	3	2	..	1	1
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases			..	3	—	..	—	—	..	—	—
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum			..	3	1	..	1	—	..	1	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under two years)			..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—
26.	Appendicitis			..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases			..	—	1	..	3	2	..	1	—
28.	Nephritis			..	3	2	..	1	—	..	3	1
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis			..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes			..	—	1	..	—	—	..	—	1
31.	Premature Birth			..	3	—	..	1	3	..	1	1
32.	Congenital mal : birth inj : infant dis :			..	1	2	..	3	4	..	7	2
33.	Suicide			..	2	2	..	1	—	..	1	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents			..	2	—	..	3	3	..	1	—
35.	Other Violent Causes			..	2	3	..	2	2	..	1	2
36.	All other causes			..	7	10	..	5	7	..	6	10
Totals				..	81	93	..	90	83	..	95	88
Grand Totals					174		..	173			183	

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES.

Birth Rate :	1937	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
England & Wales	14.9	17.60	16.10	19.10	20.50	17.90
Flaxton R.D.C. . .	18.4	15.58	20.76	20.48	23.15	15.83
Death Rate :						
England & Wales	12.4	11.60	11.40	11.50	12.00	10.80
Flaxton R.D.C. . .	9.8	10.48	10.90	9.78	10.46	8.19
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) :						
England & Wales	58.00	46.00	46.00	43.00	41.00	34.00
Flaxton R.D.C. . .	54.40	45.45	37.73	19.23	31.33	34.92
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Total Births) :						
England & Wales	3.65	1.93	1.79	1.43	1.17	1.02
Flaxton R.D.C. . .	3.89	Nil	Nil	2.74	Nil	3.08

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details of officers are listed at the beginning of the Report. There is only one addition during the year, namely, the appointment of a clerk, Mr. J. W. Medd, to replace Mr. G. A. W. Heppell.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations of milk, water and effluents are carried out for the Council by The County Pathologist at Northallerton and Messrs. T. Fairley and Partner, of 35, Park Square, Leeds. The County Pathologist and Dr. S. Goodman Platts are both very helpful in examining many specimens on behalf of the Council.

Ambulance.

Under the National Health Service Act the Council's ambulance service was transferred to the North Riding County Council about mid-year. It continued to function satisfactorily and without complaint whilst in your control. I believe the Council have had some little regret in the transfer of this service which they have established.

The service since being transferred has continued to operate much as before. A few complaints of minor character have been heard, but no doubt these will become fewer as the new arrangements become more established.

The replacement of the Ambulance purchased by the Council was a cause of some annoyance, but as a new vehicle was eventually delivered the objection was appreciably minimised.

No doubt the free service now offered is appreciated, but perhaps there is need to bear in mind the tendency to abuse of this privilege which is to some extent evident not only in this district but in the country as a whole.

The mutual aid arrangements which your Council so successfully operated in controlling this service have continued and have been very helpful.

Nursing in the Home.

District Nursing Associations operating from six centres now provide a service covering 23 parishes.

Treatment Centres, Clinics, Etc.

The North Riding County Council operate Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in the district and a Tuberculosis Clinic in York to serve the district. The Clinic for treatment of venereal diseases is now operated at the York County Hospital by the Leeds Regional Hospital Board. The arrangements are as follows:

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

11, Castlegate, York. Dr. S. P. Wilson.

At 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursday in every month.

V.D. Clinic.—York County Hospital.

Males: Mondays, 3 to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, 6 to 7 p.m.;
Fridays, 7 to 8 p.m.

Females and Children: Wednesdays, 3 to 4 p.m.; Fridays,
6 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.—

(a) Recreation Hall, Wigginton—
Attendances once every four weeks.

(b) Village Hall, Stockton-on-Forest.
Alternate Fridays at 2 p.m.

Infant Welfare Centres.—

(a) Recreation Hall, Wigginton—
Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

(b) Folk Hall, New Earswick—
Alternate Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

(c) Church Hall, Strensall—
First Thursday in month at 2-30 p.m.

(d) Social Hall, Huntington Road—
Every Wednesday at 1-30 p.m.

(e) Church Hall, Clifton—
Alternate Fridays at 2 p.m.

(f) Memorial Hall, Huntington—
Alternate Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Skin Clinic.

The arrangements which were made by the Council for the treatment of scabies, head lice and impetigo at the clinic of the City General Hospital, Haxby Road, York, continued to work satisfactorily to the date of the transfer of functions arising under the National Health Service Act. So far as I am aware the arrangements have continued from the date of transfer in much the same way and no complaints have been received to the end of the year. The scheme up to the date of transfer was that provision was made for normal out-patient treatment and also for in-patient treatment in severe cases. The County Council co-operated in the initiation of this scheme by agreeing to accept responsibility for payment of in-patient treatment whilst your Council accepted responsibility for the payment of costs incurred by out-patient treatment. It is not very clear as to what the position will be from the period of change over, but to the end of the year the Council have not been concerned with any payment.

The number of persons receiving treatment from the 1st January, to the 30th June, was 11 cases of scabies, 2 of impetigo and 10 of head lice. All cases dealt with received out-patient treatment.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Services.

The supply of adequate water services to that small percentage of your population still without a piped supply is still not settled. Whilst the number of persons compared with the total population of your district is small, it is nevertheless important that the urgent need of these people should not be lost sight of.

It is a matter of concern to me that there are still 8 villages without a pure and wholesome drinking water supply. Shallow wells upon which they depend are in most cases polluted or liable to pollution. There is a certain amount of risk to health in these cases which cannot be ignored. There is also the not unimportant matter of hardship and physical strain imposed upon these people in obtaining water of any kind which in a great many cases arises from the necessity to carry water over long distances. The supply of water from shallow wells has been a cause of some anxiety now for a few years by reason of shortage. There is, too, the rather wider problem of a supply which is required by the more isolated properties and farms, and apart from the hardship and risk to health which arises in the bulk of these properties, which is the same in all respects as the hardship and risk to health obtaining amongst the properties in the villages, there is the question of the milk supply which should not be overlooked. If a pure and wholesome milk supply is to be made available with any

degree of reliability, then a clean and pure water must be available for the effective cleansing of utensils, for purposes of watering the stock, washing down of premises and, not least, the effective cooling of milk before distribution.

Although approval to the schemes put forward by your Council to the Ministry of Health had not been received by the end of the year and whilst perhaps it would not be true to say that the position was the same in December, 1948, as it was in 1947, inasmuch as we hope at least that the scheme has progressed to some extent in the last year, it is to be hoped that approval and commencement of the work will not be long delayed.

The erection of the temporary water tower adjoining the boundary of Haxby and Wigginton was completed during the year and this has appreciably helped the supply position in these two parishes. It still falls short of the full requirements of the inhabitants and requires additional and more permanent arrangements to be made. It may well be, too, that the position will progressively deteriorate as new houses continue to be erected and become occupied. There will also no doubt be some increased demand by extensions of water service pipes to some of the farms and increases in population. The improvement of this supply is, I understand, fully provided for in the arrangements which are proposed in the new scheme.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The position with regard to the sewerage of your area is materially unchanged since 1947. The schemes which your Council are putting forward to the Ministry of Health for various villages will prove of great benefit to the inhabitants. Fortunately the vast majority of houses in your area have proper sewerage facilities available and the need for this service arises in the few villages at present not properly sewered.

The villages which merit consideration are, as I have previously mentioned, Lilling, Flaxton, Harton, Claxton, Sand Hutton, Gate Helmsley, Holtby, Warthill, and Stockton-on-Forest. The number of properties is, I understand, in the region of 380.

At the present time these villages discharge sewage into the village sewers which in turn empty into open watercourses, except in the case of Warthill, where, no village sewer being available, the houses discharge drainage by land drains or other means direct to the various watercourses.

It is obvious that such conditions are not in any way satisfactory, and the tendency for householders of properties to require

modern sanitary conveniences continually raises the problem of how the sewage should be dealt with. The position, too, will not improve in this direction when the essential need for water is satisfied by the provision of a piped supply. At the moment, of course, there is an ever-present danger of the pollution of the various wells upon which the inhabitants for the time being are compelled to rely.

Problems in connection with sewage disposal also arise in the village of Towthorpe and although the properties are scattered, and only number about 23, I think that this village, too, should have every consideration in the provision of services.

Closet Accommodation.

There has been very little change in the position with regard to closet accommodation during the year, only five conversions having been carried out, making a total of 327 since the inception of the scheme. The licensing restrictions on property improvement were raised about the middle of the year under review, but it has not resulted in any increase in the number of conversions carried out.

Where the villages have sewers provided it is desirable that the old pail closet and similar appliances should be dispensed with and water closets provided. These conveniences are often offensive and the possibility of fly-borne disease is one which should always be borne in mind.

Rivers and Streams.

No complaints have been received during the year as to the pollution of rivers and streams in your area, but there is reason to believe that there has been some difficulty in connection with the discharge of trade waste from the tanneries. This will probably need further investigation in the coming year. Apart from this, the rivers do not present any serious pollution problem.

Public Cleansing.

A large proportion of the houses in the area are provided with a public cleansing service. There has been no increase in the number of properties served during the year, other than the normal increase due to the erection of new houses. The change-over from private contract to direct labour refuse collection which came into operation in early December will, without doubt, be recognised in due course as a great improvement on the previous arrangements. Extension of the service to houses not already served is desirable so far as this is possible. The regular and reasonably frequent removal of waste products from the vicinity of dwelling-houses is a matter which is important when considered in relation to the health of the people.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites established in the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools within the district and no problem arises, therefore under this heading.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There is very little that I need to comment upon under this heading during the year 1948. There were rather more cases of scarlet fever and the outbreak which resulted in some 61 cases being notified, if anything, tended to be of a rather more severe type than we have become accustomed to in recent years. There were, however, no deaths and the epidemic passed without any particular difficulty. The number of cases of measles was considerably lower than in 1947 when there were 203 cases. I think it is important in connection with this infectious disease, as I have previously mentioned, that there should be early diagnosis if the spread is to be in any way checked. I think there is little doubt that parents do not exercise the care that they should in seeing that their children are properly isolated from other children in the early stages of the disease and much could be done when the first cases are notified if children suffering from signs of mild colds could be isolated for a day or two until it becomes clear whether or not a specific disease is going to develop. I believe that the comparative mildness of these infectious diseases which has been a feature of their incidence for a number of years has tended to make parents inclined to be rather more careless in this connection than was the case many years ago. I think it might help both parents and schools if carefully prepared leaflets could be made available for general distribution in the early stages of an outbreak. It was possible during the year under review to arrange for such a distribution in connection with an outbreak of measles.

I did comment in my report for 1947 upon the question of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). Fortunately we have had no cases during the present year.

Whooping cough was rather troublesome but not abnormal.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This health service is now in the hands of the County Council as from the 1st July. The figures quoted relate to the position up to the 30th June only. At that time we had continued to gain ground in the 5-15 year group whilst we had lost some hard-gained ground in the under 5 year group. I am not in a position

to give the figures at the end of the year and it is difficult, therefore, to make any comment upon the position obtaining at the 31st December. Arrangements were made for the display of posters, etc., in the area. The incidence of diphtheria continues at a very low level and no deaths have been reported.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Number of children immunised during the 6 months to June :					
(a) Under 5 years	131	89	106	195	112
(b) 5—15 years	50	71	49	56	52
Estimated total of children in the area immunised at 30th June :					
(a) Under 5 years	526	449	452	515	555
(b) 5—15 years	1697	1571	1725	1733	1750
Percentage of children in the area immunised at 30th June :					
(a) Under 5 years	38%	31%	32.5%	44.9%	39.6%
(b) 5—15 years	71%	71%	69.2%	69.6%	76.6%
Number of cases notified in all children under 15	21	7	2	Nil	1
Number of Deaths	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis.

I referred last year to the gradual increase in the number of new cases of tuberculosis being notified. Last year 23 new cases occurred whilst this year the figure was 36 plus 5 in the Clifton Hospital. Of these 36 cases 23 were respiratory cases and 13 were various forms of tuberculosis other than tuberculosis of the respiratory tract.

The free movement of open respiratory cases continues to give rise to some anxiety. The protection of the public is to all intents and purposes impossible. The protracted nature of this disease is such that isolation presents a very difficult problem. The powers available to deal with the question are somewhat restricted and it would not be an easy task to decide to what extent it would be proper to revise them.

Of the 26 respiratory cases notified during the year 4 notifications were in connection with one family. 2 other notifications from this family were recorded in the previous year, 1947. 6 cases in one family in the space of 15 months bears out my statement in my previous report as to the need for more precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of this disease from parents to children. It is generally admitted that whilst tuberculosis is not hereditary, there is a factor of pre-disposition. Nevertheless, if it were possible by some means or another to isolate the open respiratory type, many persons who contract the disease under present circumstances would not do so.

Set out below is a table showing the new cases notified during the year, and mortality :—

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Res-		Non-		Res-		Non-	
	piratory		piratory		piratory		piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years ..	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years ..	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years ..	1	6	—	3	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years ..	5	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years ..	4	1	1	—	2	2	1	—
55 to 65 years ..	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 yrs. and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	16	11	8	6	3	2	1	—

6 of the above cases were in respect of patients in the North Riding Mental Hospital.

Incidence of, and Deaths from, Notifiable Diseases.

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED														DEATHS
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	45	65	Total	Admitted to Hosp.	
Smallpox													nil		
Scarlet Fever ..			3	4	6	27	16	1	3	1			61	57	
Diphtheria							1			1			3	3	
Enteric Fever (incl. Paratyphoid) ..													nil		
Puerperal Pyrexia ..													nil		
Pneumonia				1					1		3		5	1	
Erysipelas									2	1	2		5	1	
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..						1							1	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..													nil		
Dysentery													nil		
Malaria									1				1		
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ..															
Encephalitis Lethargica ..													nil		
Measles		4	9	9	7	22	2				1		54		
Whooping Cough	8	2	6	7	5	13	1			2	1	1	46		

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning have been established during the year although complaints were received as to a suspected case of food poisoning at one of the schools in the area which it was suggested arose from the school meals service. I carried out some detailed investigations into the suspected outbreak in conjunction with the County Medical Officer of Health and the County Pathologist, and I concluded from the evidence that was gathered together that this suspected outbreak of food poisoning bore in every respect aspects similar to cases of colitis which had occurred throughout the year in various parts of the district and which was to some extent tending to be prevalent throughout the country.

There were some features attached to the premises in which the school meals were prepared which it was felt could be improved upon and a suitable report was prepared and submitted to the County Council.

The only other case of food poisoning was in respect of a patient from the Council's area admitted to the County Hospital. The notification was received so long after admittance of the case into hospital that no food of any kind which was likely to have been consumed was available for examination or analysis. Very close investigation was carried but the results were inconclusive.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1948.

To the Chairman and members of the Flaxton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith a statement of the year's working of the Department for which I am responsible.

I have attempted to show the present position under certain headings, such as 'Sewerage,' and to explain how it has been reached, in the hope that the members of the Council who were not with the Authority at the inception of certain proposals and schemes may find it of interest and help in their consideration and deliberations which will be necessary in the future.

I wish most sincerely to thank the Council for the encouragement they have always given to me and for the tolerance and understanding of the difficult problems which so frequently arise. I would also like to express my appreciation of your staff in this department, particularly for their enthusiasm for the work that has to be done and for the interest which they have always so obviously had in their work and their readiness to transfer attention from subject to subject according to the necessity of the moment.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

L. PARKER,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

STATISTICS.

The table below gives the Parishes in the District with the acreage, number of dwelling-houses according to the Rate Book and the estimated population based on the Registrar General's figure for mid-1948. The division of the population amongst the parishes is by the factor of 3.903 persons per house.

Reference was made in the Report for 1947 to the low population estimate given by the Registrar General. The figure given for mid-1947 was 16,540, and the statement was made that this seemed to be obviously low. Following strong representations made by the Clerk to the Council, a new basis of calculation must have been adopted as the figure now quoted by the Registrar General, as shown in the table as 19,900, is slightly above the Council's estimated figure.

The figure of 19,900, as already stated, gives a factor of 3.903 persons per house. The number of persons per house according to previous census figures is set out below.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Dwelling-houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Bossall-with-Buttercrambe	2691	34	132
Claxton	838	44	171
Clifton Without	972	957	3737
Earswick	1111	72	280
Flaxton	1865	93	363
Gate Helmsley	497	50	195
Harton	2004	24	94
Haxby	2206	558	2180
Heworth Without	854	153	597
Holtby	901	30	117
Huntington	1850	938	3663
Lillings Ambo	1769	48	187
Murton	844	114	445
New Earswick	784	604	2360
Osbalwick	645	279	1090
Rawcliffe	784	271	1058
Sand Hutton	2242	48	187
Skelton	2428	108	422
Stockton-on-Forest	3268	143	558
Strensall	2909	323	1262
Towthorpe	1075	34	132
Upper Helmsley	833	12	47
Warthill	1004	47	182
Wigginton	1880	113	441
Total	36254	5097	19900

Estimated Number of Persons per Dwelling-house.

1901 Census	..	4.70	persons per house
1911 Census	..	4.39	„
1921 Census	..	4.29	„
1931 Census	..	3.83	„
1939 Census	..	3.75	„
(National Registration Census)			
1948 Census	..	3.903	persons per house

Ambulance Service.

It would seem proper to set out the usual figures connected with the ambulance service up to the 30th June, 1948, from which date the service ceased to be operated by this Council.

The number of calls made in the first six months of the year amounted to 212. The mileage covered by the ambulance in dealing with these 212 calls was 4,611.

Expenditure on the ambulance during this six months' period amounted to £151 16s. 1d., and it is estimated that the amount recovered in fees will equal this sum.

Water Supplies.

There have been no extensions to existing mains during the year apart from the mains which were extended to supply the Calf Close Housing Estate in the parish of Haxby. On this estate some 1,130 yards of 3" main have been laid.

The number of properties erected during the year which have been provided with a piped water supply is 116. The number of properties previously served by wells which have now been provided with a piped supply from the Council's mains is as follows :-

(a) Dwelling houses	..	..	3
(b) Farm houses	..	..	1
(c) Supplies for Agricultural purposes other than to farm-houses			7

The Medical Officer has referred in his Report to continued anxiety with reference to the supply of water at Haxby and Wiginton, although the position generally was improved in 1947 by the erection of the temporary water tower. Much interest has centred for some years upon the agreement entered into with the York Waterworks Company setting out the terms of supply for these two parishes and it has been suggested that this agreement has become an obstruction in the way of the full requirements of these parishes being met. Undoubtedly the continuance of the old agreement has created serious difficulty for some years past and it is earnestly hoped that the Council's deliberations upon this

question may be successfully concluded in the near future as a first step to a more adequate supply being made available. The need for this agreement to be revised is supported by the appropriate department of the Ministry of Health.

In the Report for 1947 some attempt was made to describe the proposed water schemes, approval of which is so anxiously awaited by the Council. At the 31st December, 1948, the Ministry of Health had not found it possible to signify their approval or disapproval to the Council's proposals. The scheme had advanced a stage further in that a Public Inquiry into the No. 2 Regional Scheme and the Farms Extensions Scheme was held in the Board Room by the representative of the Ministry of Health, V. D. Joll, Esq., B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., in early July. The necessary evidence was submitted by the Council's officials and there was a comparatively large public attendance. Some of the statistical evidence prepared is referred to later in this Report in the hope that it may be of interest to the members of the Council.

The decision of the Ministry of Health on this Scheme was expected by your Council before the end of the year under review but visits to the Ministry and written requests urging a decision failed to produce the desired result. There seems little doubt that the reason for the delay is due to the fact that the Ministry have been inundated with schemes of both water and sewerage from all parts of the country, that in spite of every effort being made by the appropriate officials of the Ministry limited staffs have prevented early decisions being made. Difficulty has also arisen by the necessity for close liaison between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, necessitated by the inclusion of extensive and costly pipe lines primarily designed to meet farming needs as against domestic requirements.

The supply of water to farm premises on an extensive scale is a new departure in water supplies and this in turn has necessitated detailed enquiries as to stock, dairying and plant requirements on the various farms. It has also raised a very difficult problem as to the apportionment of grant to be paid by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries towards that part of the scheme supplying farm premises and the grant payable by the Ministry of Health to that part of the scheme designed more primarily for domestic purposes. It was ascertained at the end of the year that in spite of these very real difficulties there was a prospect of an early decision being given.

The number of samples of water which have been taken for chemical or bacteriological examination or both is referred to in a table which follows. The number is appreciably higher than usual and the reason for this is that additional samples were taken to provide evidence for the Inquiry showing the condition of the water in shallow wells, etc.

The water distributed by the Council received in bulk from the York Waterworks Company and the Malton R.D.C., was also analysed at various points in the district at different periods during the year and, with the exception of the difficulty which was being experienced at the end of 1947 in the Parish of Murton, to which I briefly referred in the last Report, the piped water supplies have been in every way satisfactory and up to the standard of requirements laid down by the Ministry of Health. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

In the parish of Murton I referred to a sample of water taken in mid-December, 1947, from a stand-pipe in the village which showed evidence of contamination with *Bacillus Coliform*. I also stated that after thorough flushing of the mains further samples were taken and the matter was continuing to be investigated. The further investigations which took place established that the pollution occurred following a repair to a fractured water main in the village, which fracture occurred in the same month, December, 1947. Flushing resulted in a reduction in the number of bacilli present and there was every reason to believe that by flushing on two or three further occasions the contamination would be cleared. On the third flushing, however, although the number of bacteria had been reduced by previous flushings from 180 per 100 ml. to 1 per 100 ml., it was found that the number had increased from 1 to 8. This clearly established the presence of some active bacteria which, although they had been reduced very appreciably, in number, were sufficiently active to show signs of increase. Chlorination had been considered at an early stage but it was felt that every effort should be made to avoid this as it would obviate any hope of tracing the cause of the infection. Residents in the parish were, therefore, notified of the continuing nature of the contamination and they were further advised to continue boiling water until it could be cleared. It seemed possible that the cause of the contamination might have been due to the setting up of a vacuum by the turning off of the water and the emptying of the mains for the purpose of repairing the break, resulting in the in-drawing of polluted soil in the vicinity of the pipeline. The break in the main actually occurred adjacent to the military establishment at Murton Station which had operated throughout the war and from which there was a certain amount of pollution of adjacent watercourses. The main was, therefore, opened out and a section removed to ascertain whether any deposit was evident in the pipe which had not been dislodged by flushing. The main was, however, perfectly clean and free from any foreign substance and swabs taken from the inside surface revealed no source of *Bacilli Coliform* infection on bacteriological examination. A new section of pipe sterilised by chlorination was fitted, but the presence of *Bacilli Coliform* still continued after completion of the work. A thorough check was then made to ascertain whether there was any porosity in the pipe-

line where it passed under ditches or other likely places of contamination. A check was made on all farmyard supplies to ascertain whether or not hose-pipes connected to outside taps had their free end in any source of contamination which, in the event of the tap being left open, might have resulted in contamination being drawn back into the main by the flushing which had been carried out on the service. In addition a most careful check was made for any evidence of leakage in the water services generally which might have accounted for contamination gaining access, but the results of all these proved negative. Suspicion again, therefore, centred upon the repaired main and as a last resort, all other possibilities of pollution having been checked, the hemp used for corking the joints was subjected to examinations and tests. Bacteriological examination showed that the hemp was heavily infected with Bacilli Coliform which undoubtedly arose during the retting process of manufacture and clearly established immediately the cause of the contamination. The cause having been found, the main was then chlorinated, which destroyed all infection, and subsequent analyses of samples of water showed that the service remained free and was again back to the required standard of purity. The Council not being in possession of the necessary equipment for the chlorination of the main, we were indebted to the York Waterworks Company for the loan both of their equipment and their staff to carry out this work and I wish to express my thanks for their kindly help and co-operation.

Bacteriological and Chemical Examination of Samples of Water.

Stand-pipe supplies sampled	..	..	..	..	20
Mains supplies sampled	..	..	..	..	26
Shallow wells sampled	..	..	..	..	79
Boreholes sampled	..	..	..	..	1
Rainwater tanks	..	..	..	..	1
Springs	..	..	..	..	1
Water tower	..	..	..	..	5

No. of samples taken for—

(a) bacteriological examination	..	..	118
(b) chemical and bact. combined	..	..	15

No. of samples reported unsatisfactory on—

(a) bacteriological examination	..	..	69
(b) chemical and bact. examination	..	..	9

No. of samples reported satisfactory on—

(a) bacteriological examination	..	..	49
(b) chemical and bact. examination	..	..	6

Where a water supply was found to be unfit, the consumer was warned of this fact and advised to boil thoroughly all water before use.

Source of Water Supply to each Parish and the number of properties served.

Parish	Piped Supply				Shallow Wells	Bore-hole	Spring	Total Properties
	York W.W.C.		Malton R.D.C.					
	House	S.P.	House	S.P.				
Bossall-with-Buttercrambe	—	—	—	—	21	—	13	34
Claxton	—	—	—	—	16	28	—	44
Clifton Without ..	957	—	—	—	—	—	—	957
Earswick	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	72
Flaxton	—	—	47	27	19	—	—	93
Gate Helmsley ..	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
Harton	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	24
Haxby	530	—	—	—	28	—	—	558
Heworth Wt. ..	153	—	—	—	—	—	—	153
Holtby	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	30
Huntington	938	—	—	—	—	—	—	938
Lillings Ambo ..	—	—	7	17	24	—	—	48
Murton	77	8	—	—	25	4	—	114
New Earswick ..	604	—	—	—	—	—	—	604
Osballdwick	279	—	—	—	—	—	—	279
Rawcliffe	267	4	—	—	—	—	—	271
Sand Hutton ..	—	—	—	—	48	—	—	48
Skelton	49	29	—	—	26	4	—	108
Stockton-on-Forest	86	23	—	—	34	—	—	143
Strensall	277	—	—	—	46	—	—	323
Towthorpe	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	34
Upper Helmsley ..	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	12
Warthill	—	—	—	—	47	—	—	47
Wigginton	76	—	—	—	37	—	—	113
Total	4399	64	54	44	471	52	13	5097

(S.P.—Stand-pipe).

Percentage Analysis of Water Supplies.

Houses with public mains supply direct to house	..	87.4%
stand-pipe supply	..	2.1%
Total	..	89.5%

Houses with piped borehole supply	..	1.1%
Houses with spring supply	..	0.2%
Houses with shallow well supply	..	9.2%
Total	..	10.5%

Set out below are copies of analytical reports on samples of water taken from the Council's mains distributing bulk supplies from the Malton R.D.C. and the York Waterworks Company.

SAMPLE No. 541 TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC MAINS

On 28th February, 1948.

AT LILLING.

Appearance—Clear and bright.

Odour on warming—None.

Colour of 2' column (Lovibond Units)—

Sediment—None.

Reaction—pH=

Action on bright service lead during 12 hours—

The Sample contains—

Grains
per gallon

Parts
per 100,000

Total solids, dried at 100° C.	29.12	41.60
--------------------------------------	-------	-------

Chlorides, equivalent to chlorine	1.54	2.20
---	------	------

Nitrates, equivalent to nitrogen	0.326	0.465
--	-------	-------

Nitrites, equivalent to nitrogen	nil	nil
--	-----	-----

Free and saline ammonia	0.0003	0.0004
-------------------------------	--------	--------

Albuminoid ammonia	0.0006	0.0008
--------------------------	--------	--------

Oxidation demand during 4 hours at 26.7° C

from potassium permanganate	0.007	0.010
-----------------------------------	-------	-------

sodium hypochlorite	—	—
---------------------------	---	---

Metallic contamination	nil	nil
------------------------------	-----	-----

Hardness (Clark Degrees)—

Temporary, removable by boiling	15.0	21.4
---------------------------------------	------	------

Permanent, after boiling	6.4	9.2
--------------------------------	-----	-----

Total	21.4	30.6
-------------	------	------

Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 20° C, per 1 ml.	14
--	----

Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 37° C, per 1 ml.	0
--	---

Coliform bacteria after 48 hours incubation at 37° C, per 100 ml.	0
---	---

Type—

SAMPLE No. 543 TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC MAINS AT

On 28th February, 1948.

STOCKTON-ON-FOREST

Appearance—Clear and Bright.

Odour on warming—None.

Colour of 2' column (Lovibond Units)

Sediment—None.

Reaction—pH=

Action on bright service lead during 12 hours—

The Sample contains—

Grains
per gallon

Parts
per 100,000

Total solids, dried at 100° C	21.56	30.80
-------------------------------------	-------	-------

Chlorides, equivalent to chlorine	1.58	2.25
---	------	------

Nitrates, equivalent to nitrogen	0.264	0.377
--	-------	-------

Nitrites, equivalent to nitrogen	nil	nil
--	-----	-----

Free and saline ammonia	0.0003	0.0004
-------------------------------	--------	--------

Albuminoid ammonia	0.0022	0.0032
--------------------------	--------	--------

Oxidation demand during 4 hours at 26.7° C

from potassium permanganate	0.034	0.048
-----------------------------------	-------	-------

sodium hypochlorite	—	—
---------------------------	---	---

Metallic contamination	nil	nil
------------------------------	-----	-----

Hardness (Clark Degrees)—

Temporary, removable by boiling	10.1	14.4
---------------------------------------	------	------

Permanent, after boiling	5.0	7.1
--------------------------------	-----	-----

Total	15.1	21.5
-------------	------	------

Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 20° C, per 1 ml.	14
--	----

Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 37° C, per 1 ml.	2
--	---

Coliform bacteria after 48 hours incubation at 37° C, per 100 ml.	0
---	---

Type—

Set out below is a copy of the analytical report upon a sample of water taken from one of the shallow wells in the area, and which was found to be unfit for drinking purposes.

SAMPLE No. 624 TAKEN FROM WELL SUPPLY, WARTHILL.

On 16th June, 1948.

Appearance—Clear and bright.

Odour on warming—Faint.

Colour of 2' column (Lovibond Units) :

Sediment—Semi-flocculent.

Reaction—pH =

Action on bright service lead during 12 hours —

The Sample contains—

Grains

Parts

per gallon

per 100,000

Total solids, dried at 100° C.	..	..	52.36	74.80
Chlorides, equivalent to chlorine	..	..	3.64	5.20
Nitrates, equivalent to nitrogen	..	..	2.94	4.20
Nitrites, equivalent to nitrogen	..	..	Nil	Nil
Free and saline ammonia	..	..	0.0008	0.0012
Albuminoid ammonia	..	..	0.0244	0.0348
Oxygen absorbed at 80° F in 15 minutes	..	..	—	—
Do. in 4 hours	..	..	0.280	0.400
Metallic contamination	..	..	Nil	Nil
Hardness (Clark Degrees)—				
Temporary, removable by boiling	..	..	2.0	2.8
Permanent, after boiling	..	..	19.7	28.2
Total	..	..	21.7	31.0

Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 20° C, per 1 ml. 1024

Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 37° C, per 1 ml. 264

Coliform bacteria after 48 hours incubation at 37° C, per 100 ml. 180

Type—

Observations—According to the above results this water is polluted and the present condition is quite unsatisfactory for drinking purposes.

Statistics submitted to the Ministry of Health in relation to the Council's proposed Water Main Extensions.

Total number of properties to be served . . . 473

Number of domestic properties (excluding farm-houses) 321

Number of farms (including farm houses) . . . 152

Total number of wells supplying above properties 215

Depth of wells ; varying from 3'6" to 66'.

General constructions of wells open brickwork with cover below ground level or open top.

It is worthy of note that (a) taking the samples of water examined and the number polluted as an average, 88% of the wells in the area are unfit for drinking purposes. (b) That 37% of the wells in use are dry in periods of drought, or in an average summer. (c) That whilst in quite a few of the villages water has to be led for long distances in an average summer, the inhabitants of Buttercrambe largely use water taken direct from the River Derwent without any form of treatment.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Apart from sewers to serve the housing estates of the local authority no sewer extensions have taken place during the year 1948. The table which is given in this report shows that almost 78% of the total properties in the area are provided with proper sewerage and effective sewage disposal plant. Whilst the remaining 22% of properties in the area represents a small proportion of the total, many problems and complaints arise from the often primitive methods of disposing of sewage from them. Your Council have been actively aware of this for many years but, as has so often been repeated, the principal stumbling-block has not been engineering but financial. The Council have considered the question of the provision of proper sewerage and sewage disposal plant and have had before them reports as far back as 1912. The Council made a bold effort to resolve some of their problems in this connection with the aid of the Unemployment Grants Scheme in the nineteen-thirties, and embarked in those years upon a costly scheme which today serves a total of 9,579 of the population in the parishes of Skelton, Rawcliffe, Wigginton, Haxby, Earswick, Huntington, Osbaldwick and Murton.

The Council continued to take great interest in the provision of sewerage facilities to the remaining villages, but the cessation of grants from the Ministry made the financial burden one which it was not felt the ratepayers could be reasonably expected to bear. A preliminary outline of the sewerage requirements of the District was, however, commenced in 1937 and completed in early 1938, but the intervention of the War prevented any positive action being taken until the Rural Water and Sewerage Act of 1944, when the Ministry of Health made it known that they would be prepared to consider applications for grant towards sewerage schemes. This grant was only to be made available where the provision of sewerage was necessitated by reason of the provision of a piped water supply. The Council immediately instructed their engineers to prepare schemes for all the villages not properly sewered. Subsequently the Ministry of Health placed a limitation of cost on such schemes based on the cost per house served, and this is proving an obstacle very difficult indeed to surmount in many villages, and indeed quite impossible in some. The position at the end of the year, 1948, was as follows :-

1. The scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the parish of Lillings Ambo had been enlarged to provide for the treatment of sewage from the parish of Sheriff Hutton with Cornborough in the Rural District of Malton. All engineering details were completed and a Public Inquiry was awaited.
2. Preliminary schemes were being developed in detail for submission to the Ministry of Health for the parishes of Claxton, Flaxton, Stockton-on-Forest, Warthill, Holtby and Gate Helmsley.

3. Villages still receiving consideration of the Council were Towthorpe, Sand Hutton, Harton, Upper Helmsley, Bossall and Buttercrambe.

The principle upon which these schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal are being prepared is on the provision of individual schemes. The policy in the preparation of the preliminary schemes had been one based on grouping of villages. I am satisfied that the gathering together of sewage from groups of villages lending themselves to grouping has many advantages and the policy was only abandoned when it became quite evident that grouping of schemes could not be achieved within the limit of cost laid down by the Ministry of Health, to which I have already referred. Bearing in mind the Government's decision that capital expenditure must be kept to a minimum I am satisfied that although grouped schemes may not be financially possible it would be a great achievement to see the villages provided with the means of disposing of sewage by sound sewers and treatment plant.

Table showing method of disposal of sewage from properties in each Parish.

Parish	Total Properties	Council's Sewers to S.D. Works	York City Sewers	Old Village Sewers	Water-courses Tanks, Etc.	Private S.D. Works
Bossall-with-Buttercrambe	34	—	—	—	34	—
Claxton	44	—	—	36	8	—
Clifton Without ..	957	16	933	—	8	—
Earswick	72	32	—	30	10	—
Flaxton	93	—	—	60	33	—
Gate Helmsley ..	50	—	—	33	17	—
Harton	24	—	—	18	6	—
Haxby	558	435	—	38	85	—
Heworth Without	153	54	60	—	39	—
Holtby	30	—	—	13	17	—
Huntington	938	842	—	13	83	—
Lillings Ambo ..	48	—	—	16	32	—
Murton	114	73	—	—	41	—
New Earswick ..	604	68	—	—	4	532
Osbalwick	279	131	101	—	47	—
Rawcliffe	271	98	147	—	26	—
Sand Hutton ..	48	—	—	40	8	—
Skelton	108	85	—	—	23	—
Stockton-on-Forest	143	—	—	40	103	—
Strensall	323	310	—	—	13	—
Towthorpe	34	—	—	—	34	—
Upper Helmsley ..	12	—	—	—	12	—
Warthill	47	—	—	—	47	—
Wigginton	113	41	—	21	51	—
Total ..	5097	2185	1241	358	781	532

Methods of disposal—percentage comparison.

Properties connected to proper sewerage and sewage disposal treatment plant :—

(a)	via Council's sewers to Council's disposal works	42.87%
(b)	via Council's sewers to York City sewers	.. 24.35%
(c)	Drained to private works designed to produce a satisfactory effluent	 10.43%
	Total	.. 77.65%

Properties connected to other means of disposal :—

(a)	To old village sewers discharging to water-courses	 5.98%
(b)	Direct to watercourses with or without tank treatment, or to cesspools, tanks, etc.	.. 16.37%
	Total	.. 22.35%

Maintenance.

I referred in the Report for 1947 to the general work devolving upon your workmen in connection with the disposal and treatment of sewage and referred briefly to the variety of other works for which they are responsible. I briefly referred, too, to the fact that there are seven sewage disposal works and treatment plants in your area scattered many miles apart. The reference I have made in an outline of the position in the area under the principal heading of this section, Drainage and Sewerage, tends to indicate the future trend of maintenance work in the rural areas or in the areas with very scattered populations. This trend patently points to the necessity of an increase in the number of treatment plants for sewage if the various groups of properties are ever to enjoy reasonably modern facilities in the provision of water-closets and other sanitary conveniences. Much objection has been raised from time to time in various quarters as to this tendency to have a multiplicity of small works, and whilst one admits that maintenance would appear to be much simpler if sewage could be gathered together from scattered areas to a central station, it is not necessarily an entirely satisfactory solution. The tendency for sewage to turn septic in travelling along long lengths of mains raises the problem of adequately treating it. Sewage brought to the treatment plant in a fresh condition is more readily purified than sewage which reaches the works in a septic condition.

There are of course undoubted advantages in a central disposal plant but as it seems clear that the economic condition of the country will only allow schemes of this type in exceptional circumstances it is important to recognise the value of efficient mobile

squads who are well trained in the subject matter of sound maintenance principles in connection with such works. Squads of this type can be very effective units of maintenance for scattered works and I feel that from the point of view of economy should be able to compare favourably with the larger teams usually associated with a central disposal plant. It might also be possible very economically to arrange for some person resident near some of the more isolated plants to carry out the necessary but simple and frequent attention required to works, such as keeping clear the weep-holes on the distributors, resulting in the number of journeys by the mobile squad being reduced to those necessary for the more skilled work of greasing, oiling and maintaining the mechanical and pumping equipment, etc., and the de-sludging of the various tanks, maintenance of the beds and clearing of the sludge lagoons.

The maintenance of your various plant together with the miscellaneous works to which I have previously referred has continued satisfactorily throughout the year. The pressure of work on your workmen has continued to be heavy and there have been times when they have been hard pressed to keep the plant up to its normal standard of mechanical efficiency. The reduction of the working week from 48 to 44 hours, which came into effect during the year under review, in no small way contributed to this increased pressure of work. Some little overtime has been necessitated in consequence. Nevertheless, in spite of the difficulties I have been very pleased with the general output of work of your maintenance engineer and staff.

Public Cleansing Service.

I set out below a statement showing the parishes in which collection of refuse is undertaken, together with the number of properties affected and the method by which it is carried out. A further tabular statement shows the points of disposal of the refuse from the various parishes and a brief analysis on a percentage basis of the number of properties in the area enjoying this service.

Private Contract.

<i>Tip</i>		<i>Parish</i>			<i>No. of Properties</i>
Haxby	..	New Earswick	..	..	592
		Huntington	..	..	908
		Wiggington	..	..	84
		Haxby	..	..	539
Total					2123

Direct Labour.

<i>Tip</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Properties</i>		
Towthorpe ..	Claxton	..	..	37
	Sand Hutton	..	..	32
	Strensall	..	..	237
	Murton	..	..	109
	Heworth	..	..	148
	Earswick	..	..	52
	Holtby	..	..	19
	Gate Helmsley	..	..	46
Skelton ..	Clifton	..	..	919
	Rawcliffe	..	..	233
	Skelton	..	..	80
	Osbaldwick	..	..	268
Total ..				2180
Grand total ..				4305

It will be seen from the statistical data above that at the end of the year out of a total of 84.46% houses enjoying a service of refuse collection and disposal, 42.77% were served by direct labour and 41.69% by contract.

Your Council will remember that at the commencement of the year under review all the properties provided with this service were collected by direct labour.

I feel that I cannot do other than record the great pleasure it has given me to know that your Council decided at the latter end of this year to change over from contract to direct labour. For a very considerable number of years I have submitted to the Council information and reports which have enabled consideration to be given to the advisability or otherwise of making this change. I have always recognised that this matter has been a problem which has weighed heavily upon the Council for many years. I could never hold out hope that we should be able to compete in the cost of such a service as carried out by private contract and I was never able to do more than to suggest that the service might be more efficient and meet the needs of your ratepayers with greater satisfaction.

Your decision, which was arrived at after long and careful consideration, placed upon me the heavy responsibility of preparing detailed calculations as to how such a service could be organised, its approximate cost and the organisation of the necessary

machinery for carrying out effectively the important task of salvaging all materials at present nationally required and marketing them. The preparation of such a scheme with no previous figures or experience of any kind of direct labour operations in this particular area was not easy. The collection and disposal of refuse is one of those difficult problems which vary so widely as to cost, yield, timing and number of men required between area and area that such limited information as could be obtained from other authorities carrying out this work was in no way conclusive that it would be applicable to the area of this Council. Very detailed calculations as to estimated yield, distances to be travelled, varying speed of travel, timing for emptying of the various types of receptacles such as privies, ashpits, pail closets and sanitary dustbins, the length of carry involved in various parts of the district and the length of running to tips, were all taken into account in formulating a schedule which ultimately led me to assess that with one vehicle, one driver and two loaders would be able to deal with the 2,180 properties concerned. This also in turn enabled the estimated cost to be calculated.

It was with a certain amount of trepidation that I approached the first week of the inauguration of this scheme and it was with some relief and pleasure that the schedule prepared was followed so closely by your workmen that the calculations varied from actual timings by only a matter of an hour or so in the week. The costs in consequence were also kept within the estimate. I think it is to the very great credit of your workmen that they were able to follow this schedule which was so finely calculated that they were only allowed a matter of seconds at each house. And I am sure that such success as the scheme has achieved is entirely due to the conscientious and consistent application to their work of these particular employees.

The salvage returns also increased under the new scheme in comparison with the salvage return under the previous method of collection. The service was able to provide a weekly collection of refuse as well as a weekly collection of salvage. Your Council will remember that salvage was collected fortnightly and refuse was collected fortnightly under the old scheme.

We had received at the end of the year rather less than a dozen complaints against the service, most of which were directed to the fact that refuse ought to be collected at the house rather than at the gate.

The collection of refuse which still remains in the hands of a private contractor is very conscientiously carried out and the collection is, I think, undoubtedly satisfactorily undertaken. Complaints are rarely received. Comment has, however, been made from time to time as to the actual removal, and one must admit that the lack of a vehicle constructed specifically for the purpose is a distinct disadvantage to the contractor. The work is, of

course, carried out at a very low cost indeed. I think, too, that very great care is exercised by your contractor in carrying out as far as possible the spirit of salvage collection, and I feel that the maximum salvage obtainable is being received.

Salvage.

As I have stated above, a weekly collection of salvage is now undertaken in respect of the properties served by your Council's direct labour scheme as well as by your contractor. I believe that if the maximum yield of salvage is to be obtained a weekly collection of salvage is desirable. In addition to every house being circulated during the year under review notifying them of the continued and vital need for salvage the attention of the public has been drawn to this matter by suitable slogans which have from time to time been changed.

The important items of paper and rag have been appreciably increased during the year, and revenue by the sale thereof has benefited the ratepayers in no small measure. I think it is important to remember in connection with salvage that if the collection can be undertaken at the same time as, and by the same vehicle and men, as household refuse, the cost of salvage is limited to such items as sorting, baling and marketing. In this connection our costs have not been high, but I think it is also important to remember two further points; first, that if salvaged materials were for any reason no longer saleable, they are in fact refuse which must still continue to be collected and disposed of — a fact which is often overlooked in assessing the profitableness or otherwise of this part of the public cleansing service. Secondly, the economic value of salvage to the country as a whole and the national savings involved thereby.

I set out below a table compiled on the average monthly yield with the assessed corresponding annual yield, and for comparative purposes I give the figures under your own direct labour scheme as against your scheme by private contract.

<i>Material</i>	<i>Average Monthly Yield</i>			<i>Total Annual Yield</i>			<i>Estimated Value</i>		
	<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>Q.</i>	<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>Q.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Direct Labour—									
Waste Paper ..	5	0	0	60	0	0	360	0	0
Rags & Woollens ..	6	0	..	3	12	0	57	12	0
Scrap Metal ..	1	0	..	12	0	..	1	4	0
Bones ..	2	0	..	1	4	0	7	4	0
Glass Cullet ..	—		..	—		..	—		
Kitchen Waste ..	4	0	0	48	0	0	36	0	0
				Total		..	£462	0	0

<i>Material</i>	<i>Average</i>			<i>Total</i>			<i>Estimated</i>		
	<i>Monthly</i>			<i>Annual</i>			<i>Value</i>		
	<i>Yield</i>			<i>Yield</i>			<i>£ s. d.</i>		
	<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>Q.</i>	<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>Q.</i>			
Private Contract—									
Waste Paper ..	2	5	0	27	0	0	162	0	0
Rags & Woollens ..	1	0	..	12	0	..	9	12	0
Scrap Metal ..	1	0	..	12	0	..	7	14	0
Bones ..	—	..	..	—	..	..	—		
Glass Cullet ..	10	0	..	6	0	0	9	0	0
Kitchen Waste ..	4	0	..	2	8	0	1	16	0
Total ..							£190	2	0

Kitchen Waste.

In connection with kitchen waste, it will be seen from the table above that the collection of kitchen waste is a fairly important item of your salvage service. During the year, I was called upon by your Council to submit a statement as to the loss incurred in the collection of kitchen waste, and I was able to submit a statement showing that instead of a loss there was in fact a profit credited to the rates of £150 16s. 10d. during the period of kitchen waste collections.

Kitchen waste is organised by your Council on the basis of the Council providing the street containers and maintaining them and arranging the collection, cleansing and replacement of bins by contract. The system has worked very well indeed, but at the present time this service is only available to 22% of the properties in the area. These properties are, of course, those contained in the larger parishes which are more urban in character. It certainly covers the properties where any request for this service has been made. In the parishes not dealt with it is felt that the inhabitants themselves keep their own poultry and pigs, which would make any extensions of the scheme unnecessary. Nevertheless, I do hope that your Council will always bear in mind the desirability of extending this service to other parishes should there be any evidence of need.

I think that kitchen waste plays a very large part in the providing of essential feeding stuffs for stock in respect of which the country's need at the present time is very great. I have referred on other occasions to the complaints usually associated with the street food bins, and one must admit that there are a number of undesirable features associated with the system, of which most people are very well aware. Street food bins tend to smell, they are a breeding place for flies, both dogs and children upset them, people do not replace lids, lids get stolen and it is not always easy to replace them, and careless householders, if bins become full, deposit their waste food by the side of the bins which

in turn becomes scattered around the street. It has been possible to meet some of these complaints by sliding the bin handles over a fixed post, which is fairly effective in preventing the bins from being pushed over. Where there is a tendency to the over-filling of bins, the provision of additional bins is usually effective. It is not so easy to deal with the careless tenant who will not replace the lid of the bin or the children who take the lids away, many of which are never found again. Nevertheless, it should be borne in mind that if street bins are at any time dispensed with waste food will have to be placed in the household bin and the same objections as to offensiveness and tendency to fly breeding associated with the street bins will occur on the doorstep of the house, and at least it can be said for the street bin that it is much more distant from the household than the household bin.

Controlled Tipping.

Refuse when collected is disposed of by tipping and this is a very effective, economical and desirable method of disposal. It has the advantage of being less costly than destructors or incineration. It has the advantage that the length of carry to the tip is appreciably less than a central destructor in so far that more than one tip can be in service at the same time whereas it would not be possible to have more than one destructor on the grounds of cost if for no other reason. It also has the advantage that low-lying land can be filled up and reclaimed and brought into usefulness after a comparatively short time, at least for the growing of grass, etc.

The Ministry of Health have issued for some considerable time memoranda on the points to be observed on controlled tipping and whilst every effort is made to maintain your tips in a satisfactory state, it is rather costly to follow implicitly the recommendations laid down. Labour is very expensive and considerable time can be spent in producing a high standard tip. The question of coverage is always one of difficulty, the ideal being, of course, to keep the surface of the tip as it becomes reasonably consolidated as well as the sides of the tip except the actual tipping face covered with soil or other inert material. The cost of labour in excavating soil on the site to use as a tip dressing when tipping has taken place, or alternatively the cost of labour and haulage for the carting of soil from other sources is an expensive item. The new tips which are now in operation have not yet had soil covering, but they have not been in operation very long. They are being maintained in a reasonable condition and the question of covering over as they become consolidated is not being lost sight of.

A source of trouble on tips is the paper placed in the dustbin by many householders. When it reaches the tip it is often wet and incapable of sorting out, and upon drying it blows about and scatters over the face of the surrounding countryside. The

erection of wire screens is a help but the vagaries of the wind are such that much of it is almost impossible to retain. We have made efforts to draw the attention of householders to this difficulty and we shall continue our endeavours to stress the importance of paper as salvage and the importance of avoiding it being placed in bins.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Complaints—

Number of complaints received	489
Number of complaints investigated	402
Number where action taken	415
Number where no action taken	64

Table of Notices served—

Notices served under the—	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	58	9
Housing Act, 1936	1	2
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	1	—
Water Act, 1945	—	1
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	1	—

Tabular Statement of Inspections—

Ashplaces and Ashbins	13
Ambulance Service	26
Buildings : In course of erection	2186
Sites	61
Foundations	135
Special Visits	28
Completed Houses	145
Completed other than Houses	30
Building Licences	396
Cesspools and Sewage Tanks	45
Closets : Water	3
Pail	3
Privy	1
Contraventions of Building Byelaws	31
Council House Property	896
Cowsheds	97
Complaints	92
Dairies, Milkshops and Milk Stores	66
Drains : Inspected	295
Tested	350

Dangerous Structures	..	..	..	..	4
Defects	..	..	..	..	1
Dykes and Watercourses	..	..	..	..	169
Factories	..	..	..	..	11
Flooding	..	..	..	..	21
Footpaths and Rights of Way	..	..	..	..	9
Food Premises : Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	3
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	4
Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	9
Grocers' Shops	..	..	..	..	1
Ice-cream Premises	..	..	..	..	3
Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	1
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	95
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	..	2
Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	1
Meat Inspections	..	..	..	..	93
Food Poisoning (suspected)	..	..	..	..	8
Housing : Houses Repairable	..	..	..	..	18
Houses not Repairable	..	..	..	..	16
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	3
Infectious Disease Investigation	..	..	..	..	89
Land Surveys	..	..	..	..	11
Meetings, Interviews and Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	506
Nuisances found	..	..	..	..	48
Offensive Trade Premises	..	..	..	..	85
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	4
Petroleum Stores	..	..	..	..	40
Post-War Housing	..	..	..	..	319
Prosecutions	..	..	..	..	1
Rats and Mice Destruction	..	..	..	..	51
Requisitioning of Houses	..	..	..	..	16
Refuse Collection and Salvage	..	..	..	..	98
Reinspections : Housing	..	..	..	..	42
Housing Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	12
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	4
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	52
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	3
Road Safety Campaign	..	..	..	..	5
Samples : Milk	..	..	..	..	18
Water	..	..	..	..	137
Effluent	..	..	..	..	1
Schools	..	..	..	..	6
Sewage Disposal and Sewerage Works	..	..	..	..	75
Sewers	..	..	..	..	97
Sewerage Survey	..	..	..	..	323
Streets, Roads, Courts	..	..	..	..	36
Street Lighting	..	..	..	..	4
Street Naming	..	..	..	..	10
Temporary Buildings	..	..	..	..	92
Temporary Dwellings	..	..	..	..	7

Tips	35
Town Planning	54
Verminous Premises	5
Water Supplies	196
Water Inquiry	107
Wells	127
Workshops and Workplaces	21
Total ..	<u>8212</u>

Shops Act, 1934.

The tabular statement of inspections shows under this heading that many shops have been inspected during the year. The special provisions of the Shops Act with reference to heating, lavatory accommodation, etc., are in the main complied with. The total number of shops in the area is not great and many of them are purely domestic shops.

Smoke Abatement.

This is an important subject, but fortunately does not affect the majority of rural districts so much as it does the heavy industrial areas. There are one or two factory chimneys in the area but no complaints have been received with regard to the emission of black smoke. Observations kept do not suggest that there is any cause for particular action.

It would be interesting some time, under this heading, to carry out deposit tests for soot and grit to give an indication as to the general pollution of the atmosphere over the district, but the adjoining authorities, none of which could be described in any sense of the word as heavy industrial areas, are unlikely to produce sufficient atmospheric pollution to be of importance in this area.

Factories Act, 1937.

Set out below is a table of the number of factories in the area, differentiating between mechanical and non-mechanical premises. Under this Act the Council are only responsible in factories in which mechanical power is used for the supervision of sanitary accommodation. The Council are responsible in the case of factories without mechanical power for the supervision generally of cleanliness, drainage of floors, ventilation, overcrowding, as well as sanitary conveniences. As will be seen from the table, there are only three such premises in the district.

Many inspections have been made during the year as the tabular statement will show, and the general standard of cleanliness, etc., in non-mechanical factories is in the main satisfactory, and in those other premises where mechanical power is used, no complaints have been received from either employees or H.M. Inspector of Factories.

The statement below, which is an extract from the report required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, indicates the action taken during the year.

There have never been very many registered outworkers in the district. At the present time only four such persons are notified. These are all undertaking work in connection with button carding. The general conditions and circumstances under which these outworkers are employed are satisfactory and there is no cause for complaint under this heading.

<i>Mechanical</i>				<i>Non-Mechanical</i>			
Aircraft repair	..	..	1	Dripping making	..	..	1
Motor vehicle repairs	..	..	6	Grease extracting	..	..	2
Joinery	..	..	5				—
Firewood cutting	..	..	1	Total	..	..	3
Leather tanning	..	..	2				—
Sawmill	..	..	1				
Letterpress printing	..	..	1				
Brick making	..	..	2				
Brewery	..	..	1				
Dismantling railway wagons			1				
Scientific instrument making			1				
Concrete block making	..	..	1				
Upholstery filling	..	..	1				
Paper baling	..	..	1				
Laundry	..	..	1				
Fat refining	..	..	1				
Bakery	..	..	1				
			—				
Total	..	..	28				
			—				

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>In-spections</i>	<i>Notices</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	3	.. 85	.. —	.. —
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	.. 29	.. —	.. —
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	.. —	.. —	.. —
Total	.. 31	.. 114	.. —	.. —

No defects were found.

Outworkers.

A total of four persons employed in the carding of buttons are registered as outworkers in the Council's area.

Schools.

The tabular statement as to schools, showing situation, number of pupils, provision of water supply and sanitary accommodation has been brought up to date and is set out below.

No change in the position with regard to water supply has been possible during the year. The schedule shows that out of 15 schools in the area 9 are provided with adequate sanitary conveniences in the form of water closets and lavatory basins. 6 schools are still served by pail closets or privies. The reason for the continued use of pail closets and privies in the latter schools is due to the fact that in no case is proper sewerage available and in some cases no piped water supply.

School	Situation	No. of Pupils	Sanitary Accommodation	Water Supply
Canon A. R. Lee Modern	Rawcliffe Lane, Clifton Without	297	Water-closets Lav. basins	York Water- works Co.
Clifton Jun. School	do.	476	do.	do.
C. of E. School, ..	Village Street, Flaxton	25	Pail closets Lav. basins	Malton R.D.C. mains
Harton School ..	Village Street Harton	24	Pail closets Wash-bowls	Nil
Haxby School ..	Village Street Haxby	100	Water-closets Lav. basins	York Water- works Co.
Huntington School	Strensall Road	128	do.	do.
J.R.V.T. Sen. Sch...	New Earswick	460	do.	do.
J.R.V.T. Jun. Sch...	New Earswick	275	do.	do.
Osbalwick School ..	Osbalwick	68	do.	do.
Sand Hutton Sch. ..	Sand Hutton	58	Pail closets Wash-bowls	Nil
Skelton School ..	Skelton	23	Water closets Lav. basins	York water- works Co.
Stockton-on-Forest School	Village Street	47	Privy Lav. basins	do.
Strensall School ..	Strensall	102	Water-closets Lav. basins	do.
Warthill School ..	Warthill	33	Pail closets Wash-bowls	Shallow well
Wigginton School ..	Mill Lane	27	Pail closets Lav. basins	York water- works Co.

HOUSING.

The statistical statement required by the Ministry of Health is set out below. This statement shows the action which has been taken in connection with housing both under the Housing and Public Health Acts. It will be noticed that default action by the Local Authority was only necessary in one case.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—

(1) (a)	Total number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts ..	50
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	104
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses included in (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932	nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or by their Officers	25
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.. .. .	2
(2)	Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices—	
(a)	By Owners	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owner	—
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2)	Number of dwellings in respect of which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:	
(a)	By Owners	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owner	1
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	15
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(3)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	ni

- | | | |
|---|---------|-----|
| (4) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | | nil |
|---|---------|-----|

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

- | | | |
|--|---------|-------------|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | | } No record |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | .. | |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | .. | |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | | } No record |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | | 85 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | .. | 337 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps to abate the overcrowding | | nil |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding which it is considered desirable to report | .. | nil |

Housing Survey.

Following upon the work undertaken in connection with the housing survey of last year, which now needs to be followed up by a detailed measuring up and recording of all properties coming within the purview of the recommendations of the Ministry, it has not been possible to devote very much time during the year under review to detailed work of this kind. Work has been done in connection with housing generally as the tabular statement will show and it is hoped that this work will be progressively followed up with the object of gradually clearing up the enormous amount of work and action still remains to be taken in this direction.

POST-WAR HOUSING.

Reasonable progress was made during the year in the building of new houses, the mildness of the winter causing hardly a day to be lost through inclement weather, and labour and materials being in rather better supply than before. 112 permanent houses were completed during the year, making a total of 144 since the end of hostilities. In addition, of course, the Council have erected 50 Tarran temporary houses, converted a building into two temporary bungalows and taken control of 9 Nissen dwellings, bringing the total of family units provided to 205. Set out below is the position, Parish by Parish, on the 31st December, 1948.

Huntington.

The first portion of the North Moor Estate, to the south of the North Lane, and comprising a total development of 122 houses, was substantially built up during the year, and few sites are now

available. Those remaining will be built upon during 1949. The second portion of the estate, North of the North Lane, and extending to the Strensall Road in the vicinity of the Social Hall, will need to be proceeded with in order to meet the demand for housing accommodation in the area served by this estate. A 1/2500th layout of the estate has been approved by the Planning Authority and is awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. All the outstanding contracts at the end of 1947 were completed during 1948, as will be seen from the following table :-

	<i>Total Contracts</i>	<i>Not Started</i>	<i>Foundations</i>	<i>Eaves</i>	<i>Roofed in</i>	<i>Plastered</i>	<i>Previously Completed</i>	<i>Completed during year</i>
31/12/47 ..	74	6	30	10	10	2	—	16
31/12/48 ..	102	—	16	—	4	4	16	62
						Total		78

Strensall.

The building programme at the Northfields estate (formally the Meadowside estate) was brought into balance during the year. At the end of 1947 a considerable number of houses were under construction and none had been completed. No further contracts were let at Strensall until a contract for four houses towards the end of the year. Of the total of 86 sites on the estate, 48 remained to be developed at the end of the year, 18 comprising the terminal feature blocks on the cul-de-sacs.

	<i>Total Contracts</i>	<i>Not Started</i>	<i>Foundations</i>	<i>Eaves</i>	<i>Roofed in</i>	<i>Plastered</i>	<i>Previously Completed</i>	<i>Completed during year</i>
31/12/47 ..	34	4	12	10	4	4	—	—
31/12/48 ..	38	—	—	2	2	—	—	34
						Total		34

Skelton.

No additional building has been commenced during the year. The only land remaining in the ownership of the Council is to the north of the school, and is sufficient for a block of three houses only. The Council's Architects prepared a detailed plan of this block of houses and approval has been received from the Ministry of Health. Tenders have not yet been invited for its erection. Many difficulties have been encountered in connection with the layout of the new estate at Skelton, proposed to serve Clifton Without, Rawcliffe and Skelton, but at the end of the year approval had been received in principle from the Planning Authority. The new estate, which comprises 164 houses, village hall and playing fields, is to extend

from the Shipton Road to Moorlands Road, linking up with the existing development of 8 pre-war and 14 post-war houses in Bur Tree Lane.

Flaxton.

The six Airey Rural houses which were under construction at the end of 1947 were completed during the year on the site, adjacent to the 5 pre-war houses in Barney Lane. Six further sites are available in Barney Lane, but no building was contemplated at the end of 1948.

Haxby.

Considerable progress was made during the year on the Calf Close Estate at Haxby (formally the Haxby Hall Estate). The installation of roads, sewers and water mains was completed and contracts let for 68 houses on the estate, 16 of these being completed during the year. Stages of construction are as follows :-

	<i>Total Contracts</i>	<i>Not Started</i>	<i>Founda- tions</i>	<i>Eaves</i>	<i>Roofed in</i>	<i>Plastered</i>	<i>Previously Completed</i>	<i>Completed during year</i>
31/12/47 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
31/12/48 ..	68	—	32	—	10	14	2	10
						Total		12

Stockton-on-Forest.

The Council's proposals envisage the erection of 24 houses on a site opposite the Hall. Considerable difficulty was encountered with the Planning Authority and the Highway Authority on the question of vehicular access on to the highway, but the Ministry eventually approved the 1/500th layout. Further difficulty was then encountered in the refusal of the owner to negotiate the sale of the land, and notices of intention to apply for a Compulsory Purchase Order were served towards the close of the year.

Claxton.

The proposed estate of 20 houses at Claxton is designed to meet the housing needs of Harton and Sand Hutton in addition to Claxton itself. The Ministries of Health and Town and Country Planning have given approval to the 1/500th layout and the owners of the land had agreed to sell to the Council. The outstanding reasons for delay in the provision of these houses is in the lack of proper water and sewerage facilities. The former is, of course, the most important, as temporary provision can be made for the disposal of sewage, but the Council's water schemes had not received approval from the Ministry of Health at the end of the year in spite of every endeavour to convince the Ministry of the urgency of the position.

Lillings Ambo.

This small site which provides for 8 houses has received the approval of the Ministry of Health and the Town Planning Authority, and the owner of the land has agreed to sell. A start had not

been made at the end of the year on the joint sewerage scheme with Sheriff Hutton and in consequence the disposal of sewage from the proposed site remained an obstacle in commencing work. It is hoped, however, that a start on these houses will be made during the coming year.

Gate Helmsley.

The site at the eastern end of the village provides for 18 houses. It is designed to serve the parishes of Holtby, Warthill and Upper Helmsley in addition to the village of Gate Helmsley itself. The 1/500th layout has been approved by the Ministries of Health and Town and Country Planning, and the owner has intimated his willingness to sell the land. The only obstacles remaining in this village, as in others, is in the lack of water and sewerage facilities. It is hoped, however, that work can be put in hand during 1949. The length of water main from Stamford Bridge to Gate Helmsley is likely to be on high priority when Ministry approval to the Water Schemes is received.

Buttercrambe.

The small site in the village of Buttercrambe provides for 12 houses. The position with regard to sewerage and water facilities in this village is also acute. A temporary supply of water could be obtained from Stamford Bridge, but the cost of providing a sewerage system is likely to be high, in view of the scattered nature of the village. It is hoped, however, that a start can be made during 1949. Ministry approval has been received to the draft layout.

Temporary Housing.

No further temporary housing has been undertaken during the year. The 50 Tarran houses erected at Huntington, Haxby and Strensall represent the total programme, together with the 9 Nissen hut dwellings at Stockton-on-Forest and the 2 temporary bungalows converted from Fire Service premises at Huntington.

Private Building.

6 private dwelling-houses were completed during the year, making a total of 84 since the end of the war. 5 were under construction.

The above statement of progress made will no doubt compare very favourably with the progress made by many Rural District Councils of similar size and population, but in spite of the progress which has been achieved a very disturbing factor is that the number of new applications received during the year under review exceeded the number of persons re-housed by over 100 per cent. From time to time the thought has come into my mind that one must be careful not to over-build, but in contemplation of facts of this kind it would appear that we are still very far from reaching this position.

Nevertheless, I think that care should be exercised not to build houses in too large numbers on sites which are more distant

from the centres of population which are urban in character, and I believe on sites of this nature, houses should be built up by contracts for small groups let from time to time, bearing in mind the demand.

I refer later in this Report to the housing priority scheme of your Council for agricultural and other key workers and at this stage I would merely say that the number of houses one was led to believe would be required by the agricultural industry has not come up to expectations. Many instances are on record where houses have been offered and have been refused. It is true that houses erected in any part of your district could be let at the present time, and there would be no fear of loss of rental by houses remaining empty, but as the acute housing shortage eases and if the time arrives when H.M. Government may consider it desirable to allow persons who wish to erect and own their own house to do so, there may be a tendency for many tenants to leave the sites more distant from the urban centres of population to return to them. For this reason I think that contracts should not be let too far in advance of immediate and definite demands. On the other hand it is very necessary indeed that additional housing accommodation should be made available as soon as possible in some of the more rural parts of the district to meet bona-fide agricultural need.

The Council have regretted the fact that there has been delay in respect of some of their post-war housing proposals due to the difficulty of making available the essential services of water and sewerage, and the natural desire to avoid temporary expedients. It does seem to me, however, that every effort should continue to be made to develop new housing estates nearer to the more heavily populated parts of the district. For this reason I do hope that it will be possible at a very early date for housing to be commenced at Skelton on the west and Osbaldwick on the eastern side of the district. In these areas I see no need for the Council to have any anxiety in the continued demand for houses in these parishes.

Housing Allocations.

Reference has already been made to the disturbing factor that whilst 112 new houses have been completed and occupied during the year under review 243 new applications have been received, bringing the total of housing applications which are 'live' to 471.

The Council's scheme for the allocation of houses has been based from its inception in allocation of houses in accordance with urgency of need. The Council, until the year under review, have avoided residential qualifications and long initial periods of waiting before consideration is given to an application. Such initial period has never exceeded six months. The Council have in their scheme considered not only applications from persons residing in the area but have also provided for assessment of hardship caused

to persons working in the area and resident elsewhere involving hardship in travelling, meals away from home, long hours away from home and other similar circumstances of hardship, including the financial aspect, and these are considered in assessing priority.

Until the year 1948 the scheme worked very effectively and the level of hardship at which persons were being re-housed became very low indeed compared with the level of hardship in many areas some of which were close to this district. It was only to be expected in the circumstances of persons having, comparatively speaking, a low level of hardship obtaining houses almost within six months of making application, that there was a tendency for relations of persons living in the area, in many cases living in districts hundreds of miles away as well as other persons having no connection at all with the district, making every endeavour to obtain rooms or employment in the Council's area in order that they might become applicants on the Council's register. It was due to this trend that your Council considered, and ultimately decided to establish, a two-year residential qualification which came into operation in August, 1948.

It is considered by many that residential qualifications covering long periods such as this ought to be avoided if at all possible. Whilst your Council have not imposed such a restriction until comparatively recent times, restrictions of this nature have operated in other districts for very long periods. Two points are raised in this connection which seem to be important. First, no Council in isolation can retain a policy of free acceptance of re-housing without being flooded with applications from residents in other areas where re-housing is slower. Secondly, if such applicants are re-housed in a rural area with its scattered centres of population I am satisfied that there would be a proportionately greater tendency for such persons, having been re-housed, to return to the areas they left immediately housing became available or, should they at any time be free to erect their own house. It may well be thought that this is looking well ahead, but I suggest that it is of such importance that under no circumstances should it be lost sight of.

The allocation of houses has always been undertaken by the Housing Committee, and all cases with the exception of Court Ejectment cases and a few very special cases have been dealt with by case number. Immediately after confirmation of the Committee minutes by the Council the names of all persons allocated housing accommodation have been circulated to every member of the Council. Parish preferences have been avoided and balancing points have only operated in order that a person living in a parish should obtain a house erected in that parish where pointing has otherwise been equal and hardship equivalent to a person residing outside the parish. Similarly, service in H.M. Forces has only been taken into account as a balancing factor where cases of equivalent hardship were under consideration, the balancing point being given to the person having so served.

A feature of your scheme, which I think must be of some satisfaction to your ratepayers, is that where any applicant feels aggrieved by the allocation of a house to any particular family, he is cordially invited to put forward his grievance and in all such cases to have fully explained to him the level of pointing, hardship and general grounds upon which any such allocation was made with comparison of their own assessed level of hardship.

The Ministry of Health's call to local authorities in 1948 to give priority to agricultural workers was most carefully considered by your Council and it was agreed that 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of all properties completed should be available for allocation to agricultural workers and any similar essential workers ; houses to be offered alternately to farmers showing need for additional workers on the land to enable adequate cultivation to be achieved, and to agricultural workers resident in the area in accordance with their priority assessed on hardship of need as laid down by your general priority scheme. The order of priority of farmers was settled by your invitation to the County Agricultural Executive Committee to assess the order in which houses should be granted. This scheme, which has been worked in close co-operation with the Agricultural Executive Committee, has operated very satisfactorily. It has, in fact, been found that the list of priorities for farmers put forward by the Agricultural Executive Committee has been rapidly cleared, and with regard to the agricultural workers resident in the area, it has enabled houses to be allocated on a much lower standard of hardship than the normal housing applicants.

An analysis of the allocation of houses is set out below, which may be of some general interest to your Council, although it is obviously not possible in such a statement to indicate the degree of hardship applying to the various cases.

	Husband and wife only	Husband and wife and one child	Husband and wife and two children	Husband and wife and three children	Husband and wife and four children	Husband and wife and five children	Husband and wife and six children	Husband and wife and nine children	Widow and one child	Widow and two children	Widow and five children	Widow and six children	Total
Normal Applicant on Register ..	19	87	41	20	9	5	1	1	6	2	1	1	193
Agricultural Worker ..	2	2	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	10
Farmer requiring additional labour	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total ..	22	89	44	22	10	5	2	1	6	2	1	1	205

Provision of small units of accommodation to meet the needs of aged persons and others in similar circumstances.

Your Council have given very sympathetic consideration to the need for the provision of small units of accommodation for older persons living alone and other persons whose housing need could be met by such provision, whilst feeling that priority consideration should be given to family needs. Although the Council have agreed plans for two such types of property, one for bungalows in pairs having two bedrooms and one living room, and the other semi-detached houses constructed as two separate flats providing two-bedroom and one-bedroom units, with the retained possibility of re-conversion to a three-bedroom type house if required, none have yet been commenced.

I feel that the time has now come when a commencement should be made upon this class of dwelling, the work to run contemporaneously with the provision of houses for family requirements.

I did stress the need for the provision of some such accommodation during the consideration by your Council of the post-war housing programme carried out between the wars. The suggestion was sympathetically received, but could not be proceeded with as the Government at that time could not extend the grant aid scheme to houses of this kind.

I have no hesitation in saying that the need is urgent, and that the lack of such provision is creating much suffering and hardship, both financial and physical. I believe that the erection of a proportion of such small units would prove to be an economy in these days when economy is of great importance. There are many persons at present occupying family accommodation who would gladly and indeed are most anxious to, transfer from such accommodation to smaller accommodation, both to enable them to reduce the labour involved in managing their home and to avoid the financial hardship which in many cases arises. Such a transfer would release an appreciable amount of family accommodation, and whilst that may not directly in all cases reduce the Council's housing programme to the same extent, I do suggest that the occupation of the houses and the general change round of occupants will indirectly result in some reduction in the number of houses required to be built by your Council. In addition, there are some applications on your housing register which have been received from persons of this type who have no home of their own and others who expect to be compelled to leave their present accommodation. Many such applications are from people who have reached or are about to reach retiring age.

It is true that we shall have a certain number of two-bedroom houses becoming available shortly which might be considered suitable accommodation to meet the needs of many of these people, but the cost of these houses is such that the rent will prove in many

cases too high for the particular class of your ratepayers I have in mind. I believe, therefore, that it is most essential to concentrate on the provision of housing accommodation, perhaps less in floor area, which can be provided at less cost with a proportionately reduced rent to meet these needs. Most persons, even some living alone, admittedly prefer two bedrooms, but if economic circumstances make it absolutely essential, they would prefer to take advantage of a one-bedroomed flat in the interests of reducing their expenses. If such accommodation can be fully utilised this also represents an over-all economy in manpower, labour and materials.

We have not got the information at the moment to enable a full assessment of the need to be made, although we have approximately 20 or so cases that we know are of retiring age or are retired or are living alone. I had hoped that the Council, in order that the full need might be assessed, and a sound programme laid down, might publish a request for information as to the requirements of such persons in your area, making it clear that this information is required merely to enable the Council to assess the need.

I do hope that in the coming year it will be possible for your Council to give some further consideration to this very important matter.

Playing Field Facilities and the Conservation of Land.

For many years the provision of adequate playing field accommodation to serve the need of the ratepayers in all parts of the area has been actively under consideration and in connection with your post-war housing programme provision was made for the reasonable requirements of the estates, which it was hoped might also be of use to the other inhabitants of the particular district. On some of the estates it has been possible to set aside land for this purpose.

It always seemed to me more or less a necessity that every village or parish except the very smallest should have available land on which cricket and football could be played, with the odd corners available for tennis courts and, if desired, a bowling green.

The principle which your Council have agreed where such provision is made is that the administration should be in the hands of a Committee set up by the Parish Council or Parish Meeting, such Committee to be representative of all interests, and to work under the guidance of the Parish Council. The equipping and maintenance of playing fields to be arranged by voluntary effort and subscription rather than by the levying of a rate. This is felt to be of importance, as apart from the point of view of avoiding rate increases, the raising of subscriptions would, develop an interest and appreciation of the facilities offered.

Many difficulties have been encountered, some of which have resulted in playing fields which the Council had agreed should be provided being abandoned. The two prime difficulties in order of

importance are:— (1) The country's economic situation which necessitates the fullest possible use being made of all land for food production, and the consequential opposition of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to land being acquired for this purpose. Every one admits that food production is of primary importance, but I believe that before there is a complete abandonment of provision of playing field facilities, the fullest consideration should be given to the fact that grazing of sheep can take place on playing fields with little loss to production.

(2) I have never been sure that if the conservation of land is so important, that although the public are not 'flat-minded,' it would not have been a very helpful policy to have erected, even in rural areas where the population is more urban in character, post-war housing accommodation at least to a large extent in blocks of flats which, I suggest, could have been done on one-third of the land used for normal development, which proportions would still allow for reasonable playing field facilities as well as a certain amount of open garden and open space for the occupants.

I have been led to believe that this matter is worthy of consideration not only from the aspect already mentioned, but also from the fact that the objections that are usually put forward by or on behalf of the public to flats are largely avoidable; such as the noise (which could be overcome by constructional methods), difficulties arising from the keeping clean of common entrances and similar points (which could be picked up by servicing arrangements which could be covered by the rentals); and by the fact that an analysis of public opinion has definitely shown in a very large proportion of the occupants of houses the possession of a separate garden is looked upon more as a burden than as an asset.

Further on the conservancy of land, I believe that in addition to the above being worthy of further consideration, the provision of terrace houses, upon which I submitted a report to the Committee at the commencement of our post-war housing programme, will not only save land, but will be an asset in breaking up the monotony of the average housing estate.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The statement on the supervision of milk supplies set out below indicated the position under this important heading. The long-awaited 'appointed day' for the change-over of supervision of milk producers from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries had not been fixed at the close of the year under review.

Supervision and inspections have continued to be made. The protection of milk supplies is very important but it has been difficult during the war years and since to deal with the problem of the need to increase the nation's milk supply whilst bearing in mind its relation to quality. During this period many farmers were pressed

by various bodies associated with milk production to carry out a certain amount of dairy farming and it was not within the power of the local authority, in spite of the many resolutions which over a number of years have been sent to the Ministry asking for consideration to be given to the granting of such powers to refuse to register them. In the circumstances, milk production has been commenced in premises which are far from satisfactory and which do not comply with the standard recommended by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. Service of notices under the Milk and Dairies Order, which the local authority were empowered to serve, resulted in many such milk producers ceasing or threatening to cease to continue in milk production. It is true that neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food have at any time given any guidance to the local authority as to the relative importance of milk not produced in entirely satisfactory surroundings as against the non-production of milk at all, and it has been a matter of no small anxiety to local authorities to decide whether the correct procedure was immediate enforcement of the full provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order with certainty of a very appreciable reduction in the quantity of milk produced or the alternative of endeavouring to maintain conditions of cleanliness and a gradual improvement of premises. We have followed the latter procedure, but not without some misgivings. It has had the unfortunate result that whereas before the war premises in which milk was being produced for sale in your Council's area were practically all in compliance with the Milk and Dairies Order, many premises now producing milk are not.

Set out below are figures as to premises, producers, etc :-

Milk producing premises	..	..	..	..	..	192
Retail purveyors (including producer-retailers)	..	..				91
Number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	163
Samples of milk taken	..	..	..	..	..	18
Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations:—						
Dealer's Licence to retail ' Accredited ' Milk	..	..	..			1
„ „ „ ' Pasteurised ' Milk	..	..	..			7
„ „ „ ' T.T.' Milk	..	..	..			7
Producers of ' Accredited ' Milk	..	..	..	..	..	*7
„ ' T.T.' Milk	..	..	..	..	..	*8
„ ' Pasteurised ' Milk (in respect of plant and premises)	..	..	..	..	..	1

* Issued by the North Riding County Council.

The Council do not collect fees in respect of the Dealers' licences to retail Designated milks, as they feel that no restriction should be put in the way of traders who wish to sell a graded milk.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Council will recall that there is no central slaughtering carried out within the area. Emergency slaughtering takes place with the condonance of the Ministry of Food at the licensed slaughterhouses of Messrs. Cockerill & Blower at Murton and G. W. Hopwood at Huntington. The tables given below set out the number of animals so killed, which have been inspected, distinguishing between the types of animal, number of carcasses condemned, and dividing them between tubercular and non-tubercular cases.

		Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..		16	48	6	10	—
Number inspected ..	..	16	48	6	10	13
All diseases except T.B.:—						
(a) Whole carcase						
condemned ..		2	17	1	—	—
(b) Part carcase						
condemned ..		5*	6	—	6	—
Tuberculosis only :—						
(a) Whole carcase						
condemned ..		—	6	—	—	1
(b) Part carcase						
condemned ..		1*	3	—	—	—

* All carcasses which are not wholly condemned are sent into the central slaughterhouse at York. No parts are removed in order that a detailed inspection can be made there.

In connection with the above statement, it will be noted that where part of an animal is unfit and a part is suitable for food, by arrangement with the Ministry of Food the whole carcase and organs are forwarded to the central slaughterhouse for quartering or jointing and removal of the diseased or unfit portions.

The two slaughterhouses are much improved and are kept in a very satisfactory condition. The number of inspections made is shown in the tabular statement to be 98 during the year.

Many inspections have been made of food shops and premises where food is prepared. The number of such shops in your area is not large and the conditions under which meat and other foods are sold are on the whole satisfactory. There are no stalls in the area of any kind in connection with food which require supervision although on one or two occasions on the main roads where traffic is heavy, stalls have been noted to appear for a few hours in the day for the sale of fruit and similar commodities. Apart from the vehicles sent out from the central slaughterhouse for the delivery of meat supplies there are only a small number of vehicles used by

the retail meat purveyors, confectioners and fish dealers in the more rural parts of the area for the distribution of supplies to their scattered customers. Inspections of such vehicles have shown little cause for complaint. They are almost without exception vehicles owned by firms with some reputation and are kept in general in a satisfactory state. A small number of inspections of meat in butchers' shops have been carried out during the year but no routine inspections of this nature are undertaken. The meat sold in the area seems to be generally of a good standard and we have no indication that meat other than that supplied through the central slaughterhouse is made available for disposal through the normal trade channels.

With reference to the inspection of food generally other than meat it has always been supposed that, as the powers of sampling under the Food and Drugs Act are in the hands of the County Authority and not of the County District Council, the supervision in this direction is adequate. It is felt in many circles, in some cases very strongly, that the sampling, examination and analysis of various foodstuffs should be entirely in the hands of the District Councils and so avoid overlapping and other features which are considered by some to be undesirable.

ERECTION OF NEW BUILDINGS.

Analysis of plans deposited.

Plans as shown in the statement below have been dealt with during the year. As will be seen, the bulk of the plans deposited relate to the erection of buildings of the garage, greenhouse, etc., type. There has, of course, been a greater amount of building by the Council as opposed to private enterprise.

The plans submitted have resulted in a considerable number of visits of inspection being made, amounting to 2,496 during the year, in addition to the general question of reports upon plans and the clerical work, etc., involved.

On the 1st July, 1948, the limitation of £10 below which a person was free to build, was increased to a free limit of £100 in the case of houses and £1,000 in the case of farm outbuildings in a licensing period of six months. This did not result in any particular rush of additional work being carried out in your area. It was in fact rather remarkable for the slow manner in which any increased activity was noticed. The record of plans deposited did not show any increase beyond the average of the year 1947. There were signs at the close of the year, however, that this apparent slowness to take advantage of the relaxation was coming to an end and that there would be increased activity in 1949.

During the course of the inspections above referred to, many defects were found and remedied on new buildings and many contraventions of the byelaws noted and reported to the Council. The principal defects remedied were — 'chimneys not parged ;

timber in cavity walls not protected by damp-proof course ; defective flues ; drains defective on testing ; drains unsatisfactorily laid ; lack of sufficient sub-floor ventilation ; lack of permanent ventilation to habitable rooms without flues ; timber taken across party walls,' etc.

Plans were deposited for the following buildings :—

Dwelling-houses — Local Authority	81
„ — Private enterprise	7
Exempted buildings (garages, greenhouses, etc.)	131
Alterations and extensions to property	16
Agricultural buildings	12
Business and Factory premises	10
Layouts	1

Plan Printing.

The Council will remember that some few years ago they purchased at the moderate cost of some £8 or £9, including the cost of fixing, a sodium lamp for plan printing. Your own workmen constructed a printing frame. This equipment has been of the utmost value to your Council in connection with the post-war housing, water and sewerage activities. It has avoided inestimable delay allowing matters to be dealt with expeditiously and cheaper within your own offices by your own staff. It is roughly estimated that some 300 prints of varying sizes have been made in your offices and the following is a schedule of some of the purposes for which they have been required :—plans for water inquiry, Lilling sewerage survey, survey of Skelton sewage disposal works, various housing layouts for submission to the Ministries of Health, Town and Country Planning, and Agriculture and Fisheries, County Planning Board, Gas, Electricity, Water and Post Office undertakings, plans of various footpath diversions, plans of proposed estates and development for the District Valuer, plans of land required for playing fields, etc.

This work, in addition to the time saving factor must represent an appreciable economy in actual cost.

Issue of licences to erect new houses and repair existing houses.

The work in connection with the issue of various building licences was heavier than ever during the first half of the year under review. The Government's decision to increase the free-limit from £10 to £100 came as a very welcome relief to the burden placed upon your department in this connection, and it has undoubtedly reduced the amount of work involved under this heading. On the other hand, the Government saw fit to issue a circular to Local Authorities authorising them to issue licences to persons in urgent need of housing accommodation permitting them to erect and buy their own dwelling-house. It is difficult to say whether the amount of work involved in the new legislation involves more or less time

than the work connected with the reduced work arising out of the increase in the building ceiling, but whichever way it has turned out, it has enabled more of the work and checking, etc., to be carried out by the clerical staff and has been a relief to your technical officers, leaving them free to carry out other more necessary work.

It is still necessary in connection with these licences to keep some check on the amount of controlled materials required, and to certify timber used on the work licensed. It is also necessary to carry out site inspections as before.

The issue of licences to erect dwelling-houses by persons in need of accommodation has raised as is usual for these matters some entirely new problems. The principal ones are :—(1) It has been found necessary to establish the fact that applications can only be received from the persons requiring the accommodation and not from speculative builders, who have pressed very hard for licences to be issued to them. (2) Investigation into the circumstances of individual applicants has been necessary to check the urgency of need, in most cases involving site visits and interviews, and the preparation of special forms of application to assist in obtaining the information required. (3) It has raised the problem of arriving at a valuation of the building upon completion in order that the ceiling price may be fixed and controlled in accordance with the Government's circulars and instructions. Many difficulties have arisen in connection with the valuation of the site, road-works and services as against the building itself and the value of extras in connection with the building in relation to the standard work carried out in houses built for the local authority. (4) It has raised the problem of the local authority having issued a licence that the person to whom the licence is issued has checked the financial implications of house building, that he is in a position to undertake the necessary work before the licence is issued, and to safeguard as far as possible that he will in fact take up occupation upon completion. (5) There has also arisen that very difficult problem of licences being allocated and works delayed or not commenced, and a limitation of time has had to be established, making reasonable allowances to an applicant who has been issued with or promised the issue of a licence to enable him to settle his problems of builder, site, byelaw approval, planning approval and fixing of the development charge, from which limited period of time the division is controlled by the regulations laid down by the Ministry that a licence expires two months from the date of issue if the work has not been commenced.

There is no doubt that this concession by H.M. Government has been a valuable one. It has taken a certain number of applicants from your housing register. It has enabled some very urgent cases of housing need, where they have been on your list for only a short period of time, to busy themselves with the provision of housing accommodation.

Administration and Procedure under the Town and Country Planning Act.

As I stated in the previous Report, the Town Planning Act of 1947 would become operative on the 1st July, 1948, and at the end of the year under review a period of six months under the new arrangements had expired. It was not clear at December, 1947, when I commented under this heading, whether or not your Council would cease to be a Town Planning Authority with statutory powers, jointly with the City of York, for that part of the area covered by the York Joint Planning Scheme.

It has been established during the year and upon the coming into operation of the Act that the administration of the new Act for the whole of the Council's area passed to the North Riding County Council and that your Authority no longer have any administrative powers. I stated previously that a unification of Town Planning control was important and I think that both from the point of view of your Council and the persons concerned with development under the new Act, this will lead to a more readily understandable and simplified procedure. Your Council will regret the loss of their administrative powers in this scheme which I feel they have exercised with sound sense, firmness and restraint.

The County Planning Authority have prepared a scheme which aims to bring Town Planning control within the ambit of County District control. This aim is not only excellent but extremely desirable if effective Town Planning is to continue. Theoretically it is very sound, but I am not sure that in practice it will produce the best and most effective results. I would much prefer that the County Council should delegate limited powers or authority to each individual County District, which would enable them to set up their own Planning Committee, receive applications, arrive at their decision, giving the fullest possible benefit to the wealth of local knowledge which exists amongst the various members of your Council; such decision should then be submitted to a County Planning Authority or Committee for their consideration and final decision before the applicant was notified of approval or disapproval. This need not incur any delay at all. It would not involve a duplication in any way of application or approach and yet would, were it possible to arrange, give the fullest possible effect to the local circumstances, and I believe that it would have worked most excellently.

Your Council devised a similar arrangement when they themselves were an administrative Planning Authority in connection with all applications concerned in the joint scheme and at no time did it create any confusion or difficulty, and worked most satisfactorily.

We have, however, endeavoured to make the fullest use of the scheme put forward by the County Council and to take the fullest possible advantage of any local knowledge on any particular plan-

ning matter, and for this purpose the County Planning Officer is informed on appropriate report sheets of any comments that occur to your Council or their officials in connection with any planning application which is submitted. Whilst it has never been intended that the County Planning Authority should in any way feel restricted by any such comments, it is pleasing to know that they are there for their consideration in order that no point may be overlooked so far as this can be avoided, and it is also pleasing to know that the County Council consider this to be of some appreciable value to them in undertaking their difficult and onerous task of ensuring sound planning administration within the whole of the extensive area of the County Council.

Your Council's representatives on the Joint Planning Board I know, have given valuable assistance in their representation on the No. 4 Area Board, and have always been enthusiastically and actively interested in this important matter.

Your Council have endeavoured in connection with land development charges and the right of individual property owners to make claims for compensation, to publish as far as possible and to make known as widely as possible within your area, these rights to claim. The Ministry of Town and Country Planning and the Central Land Board have been somewhat concerned that the number of claims received by them at the end of the year were so few in number and they have asked Local Authorities to continue to make every effort to help in disseminating the knowledge that claims must be submitted by the 31st March, 1949.

I feel that I should comment under this heading on the likely effect of the new Act upon development so far as one can see the trend in these early stages.

An important aspect of this Act is that any person wishing to develop land for building purposes, or any purchaser of an individual plot of land for the purposes of erecting a dwelling-house, must now purchase the land at its present or existing user value. As this is in most cases agricultural value, the price of a plot of land would not exceed, generally speaking, in the region of £20, whereas before the War persons paid anything between £80 and £140 for a single plot. If a person pays more than the user value for the land he will have to pay, in addition to the increased value above user value, a development charge which will be assessed and fixed by the Central Land Board, and he would, therefore, be paying twice for the increased value of the land in converting it from an agricultural site to the site of a dwellinghouse. It seems to me only reasonable to assume that no owner of land will in future be willing to sell land for development on this basis and so far as one can visualise the only owner of land who is ever likely to sell will be a person who for very special reasons of finance or health requires to relieve himself of the responsibility of ownership, and these cases one would imagine will be few. It would, therefore, appear

that the Act will ultimately result in its operation in the purchaser of a house, either as a direct buyer of a site for the purpose, or through the speculative builder who has purchased land in the first instance, being involved in paying more for his completed house than he had to do before the passing of the Act, insofar that he will not be able to obtain a site unless there is some financial incentive to the vendor.

Alternatively, the intention of the Act that the development value should accrue to the State and not to the owner of land will only be achieved by compulsory acquisition by the appropriate Local Government Authority, they in turn making the land available for development as and when required.

This latter point also has some bearing on another point I feel I ought to make some reference to. It is the difficulty at the present time of making available sites for bona-fide industrial development. Your Council are receiving many requests for sites for this purpose and I am satisfied that industry or the development of industry is being seriously hampered by the fact that the industrial sites which are scheduled as such under the Town Planning Scheme cannot be obtained by normal purchase, no owner of land being willing to sell, and although we are helping in every way possible, these unfortunate people are driven one after the other to approach the same owners of land with the same result—that they are not willing to sell.

I really believe that if Town Planning is to be effective at all, compulsory acquisition must be most carefully considered with a view to action being taken or some appropriate solution being found. This course may not present a desirable aspect to many members of your Council or to members of the County Authority, but I am satisfied that the resolving of this problem is most urgent.

